13. Undesirability of abolishing the Ettumanur taluk.

Mr. Raman Narayanan (Member, Ettumanur Taluk) stated that his taluk had a separate existence for over 200 years and that its abolition with its *pakuthies* distributed among the taluks of Kottayam, Vaikam and Minachil would work considerable hardship on the people. He pointed out that if, as proposed, the Elakkad *pakuthi* was to go to Vaikam, the distance would be about 24 miles, and that, if the Kanakari *pakuthi* was to go to Kottayam, the distance would be 20 miles. It was also pointed out that, by abolishing the taluk, a gain of Rs. 400 a month by way of reduction of staff would accrue to Government and that by the establishment of a Sub-Magistrate's Court a loss of Rs. 182 a month might result instead. Altogether there would thus be a net gain of Rs. 218 a month to the Government as a result of the modifications proposed. Of the total annual revenue of Rs. 185 lakhs or of 15 lakhs a month, a taluk on an average yielded Rs. 50,000 a month, and an expenditure of Rs. 218 a month for the revenue staff of that taluk could not be considered a great loss. The Member stated that a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was spent on the construction of the Vanchiyur school buildings and that a further sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was proposed to be spent on the construction of the school at Kottar. If the estimate for this building could be reduced and the saving invested in the bank, the income derived therefrom by way of interest would more than make up for the loss consequent on organising a new Department. The Member added that, as a result of the appointment of a Land Revenue Commissioner, the pay of the Dewan Peishkars might be reduced, and that out of the sum of Rs. 30,000 spent on Oottupuras one-tenth might be diverted for the use of the new Department. The Devaswoms in British India were managed by Committees. If the Devaswoms here also were handed over to the management of the people, nearly 20 per cent of the cost could be saved. The Member further prayed that the local English School wherein Form IV was proposed to be opened next year should, as hitherto, continue under the management of Government and pointed out that the Kadutturutti Higher Grade School which was abolished from the beginning of this year should be re-opened as the Kolancheri and Muttuchira schools were not convenient for all classes of people. He prayed also for the transfer of the Additional Munsiff's Court at Vaikam to Kadutturutti. He requested that the road from Alleppey to Ettumanur and Vaikam constructed by the people be taken over and that the Kadutturutti Krishnavilasam market canal be broadened by Government. The establishment of a Taluk Board and the opening of a dispensary at the locality were also urged by the Member.

Dewan's reply.—I have to give the same reply as regards the abolition of the Ettumanur taluk as I gave in respect of the representation regarding the abolition of the Mavelikara taluk. The other matters mentioned by you will be considered.

14. Undesirability of abolishing the Alangad Taluk.

Mr. Sankaran Achyuta Menon (Member, Alangad Taluk) represented that his taluk was once ruled by an independent chief and that its importance could be gleaned from the pages of the history of Travancore. He pointed out that the abolition of the taluk and its amalgamation with Parur would render the town of Alwaye less important and cause considerable inconvenience to the people. Alwaye was of late growing in prominence, and it was desirable that Alangad should continue to be a separate taluk with its headquarters at Alwaye. In point of area, extent and population, Alangad was more important than Parur, and yet Parur had a District Court, a Munsiff's Court and a High School, while Alangad had none of these advantages. If the Taluk office was also to be abolished, the people would have to work under great disadvantage. The Member also prayed that, in case the taluk was to be abolished and amalgamated with Parur, the headquarters of the revised taluk should be Alwaye.

Dewan's reply.—I have only to repeat the reply I gave to the representations of the two previous speakers.

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